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Mom arrested in two kids' murders

- Woman allegedly confessed to stabbing her two children to death with knife
- Victims were 12-year-old girl and 8-year-old boy
- Suspect, children's identities not released last night
- Cops say attack happened inside Point Breeze home {page 02}

RICARD LABMA/METRO

Bars. Best in North America

▶ Waitresses Julie Kershner, left, and Tiffany Veasey serve up bushels of crabs at Chickie's & Pete's flagship tavern on Packer Avenue.

For the last couple of years, Philadelphia's top sports restaurant, Chickie's & Pete's, has ranked near the top of ESPN's annual Best Sports Bars in North America. Finally, the Packer Avenue landmark brought home the bacon, er, crab fries, finishing first. {page 04}

Sports

Mayor's Cup kicks off season

- Temple-Villanova renew rivalry for third season
- Game marks start to college season in Philly {page 17}

The skinny on Rancic-Rimes

A tale of two stars and one pot calling the kettle black {page 11}

Owner worse than pit bulls

Neighbors dislike husband of woman mauled to death {page 02}

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Cops: Mom stabbed kids, then herself

A Point Breeze woman was arrested last night for allegedly stabbing her two children to death, police said.

The incident occurred at about 5:30 p.m. in an apartment on the 1700 block of South 18th Street. The woman's 12-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son both suffered multiple stab wounds to the torso, cops say. The mother was arrested at the scene. Officers took her to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for treatment of self-inflicted wounds.

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There is no word on a motive at this time and no identities, other than police reports that they were Asian, were released last night. Police are still investigating the crime.

The disturbing matriarchal murders came hours after Mayor Michael Nutter and Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey announced their five-year plan for increasing the uniformed police presence on city streets. They also touted lower violent crime in recent years.

But Ramsey was also cautious.

"This is by no means a victory speech," Ramsey said. "It's a journey that never ends. There's no finish line because one murder is unacceptable, let alone two or three hundred." METRO/AW

Deadly pit bulls had troubled home

Neighbors, investigators dealt with animals' violent history Residents say their owner kept getting his multiple pit bulls back from city SPCA

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Gus Castro, a neighbor on West Carey Street, was also mauled by Jose Alvarez's dogs, he said.

Neighbors of Carmen Ramos, the Feltonville woman found dead in her home with severe pit bull bites, say that the SPCA could have prevented her death by taking action against her husband's unruly dogs.

"We've been going back and forth with the SPCA for years and they never did anything about it," said neighbor Victor Viruet, who, along with others claimed that Ramos' husband, Jose Alvarez, had at least three previous run-ins with the SPCA. "Now there's a dead person. We, the neighbors, blame the SPCA and him."

"She was afraid of the dogs. Every time she would go out, she was afraid to go back to the house." VIRUET

According to neighbors, four of the dogs escaped from the house less than two weeks ago. The pit bulls went on to attack a woman at Fifth and Erie streets and mauled Gus Castro, 25.

"They were running everywhere, so I tried to follow them and put a leash on them," Castro said. "There are a lot of kids on this block."

Castro said that police closed neighborhood streets until animal control was able to arrive and capture the dogs.

Four days later, Alvarez got them back.

"He kept paying $200, $300 and they'd give the dogs back," said Viruet's brother Ariel. "Last year, the SPCA removed 10 dogs. They found dead dogs in the basement. He still got them back."

The city SPCA declined to comment last night. Investigators are aware of the animals' violent history and were pulling neighbors from their homes yesterday to interview them.

Questions surround woman's death

Alvarez claims that he discovered Ramos' lifeless body Tuesday night, police said.

But neighbors doubted his story. "He cared more about the dogs than he did about her," Viruet said. "She was afraid of him. A couple of times she said he was abusing her."

"I remember the last time the dogs escaped, [Ramos] said, 'Oh, when Jose comes home, he'll be so mad at me,'" Viruet said. "I said, 'Don't worry about the dogs. Worry about your life.'"

As far as Ramos' cause of death, "All indications are that it is, in fact, mauling by dogs," a police source familiar with the case said. "Whether the man is in trouble for it, that is a long-term investigation and not something that will be decided today or tomorrow."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Comcast court trouble

PHILADELPHIA. Comcast lost an appeal last week to throw out a lawsuit that accuses the cable giant of violating antitrust laws and overcharging customers $875 million.

Behrend v. Comcast was originally filed in 2003 by six plaintiffs claiming Comcast not only overcharges customers, but also obtained a monopoly in the Philadelphia area.

A three judge panel for the Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 on Aug. 23 that this suit does qualify for class-action. Comcast declined to comment. METRO/YD

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PECO: Irene Top 5 worst

PENNSYLVANIA. Some 8,000 customers remained without power yesterday, three days after Hurricane Irene arrived.

About 40 percent of the outages were in Delaware County. PECO was confident all would regain electricity by tomorrow.

PECO says Irene one of the five worst storms of all-time. The utility company has already restored service to 492,000 customers. METRO/SDL

Quoted

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Who we beat

- Chickie's & Pete's beat out **Hickory Tavern** in Charlotte, N.C.; **Cooter Brown's Tavern, Grill & Oyster Bar** in New Orleans; **Woody's Tavern** in Fort Worth, Texas; and **Houndstooth Sports Bar** in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Last year's winner was **Real Sports Bar and Grill** in Toronto.
- Started in 1977 in the Northeast, Chickie's & Pete's is up to 10 locations and has stands at area sports venues. New Pa. locations are scheduled to open this fall in Audubon and Warrington.

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Chickie's & Pete's voted best sports bar in ESPN poll
And we're sharing, as bar has expanded to 10 spots

Philadelphia has been at the bottom of its fair share of lists, but the city finally received a distinction that will make residents stick out their chests: Chickie's & Pete's has been voted the best sports bar in North America in an ESPN mobile poll.

The popular sports tavern with roots in Mayfair was selected from about 5,000 nominations and after a total of 15,000 votes. Some fans believe the award validates Philadelphia as the best sports town, regardless of that Santa Claus incident decades ago.

"I started screaming and my wife asked me what happened. I didn't even vote."
CIARROCCHI

"Philadelphia has always been a passionate sports town. I'm a passionate sports fan," said William Coyle, a police officer in Delaware County, at the Chickie's & Pete's on Packer Avenue in South Philadelphia yesterday. "This is Philadelphia right here. It's a great place."

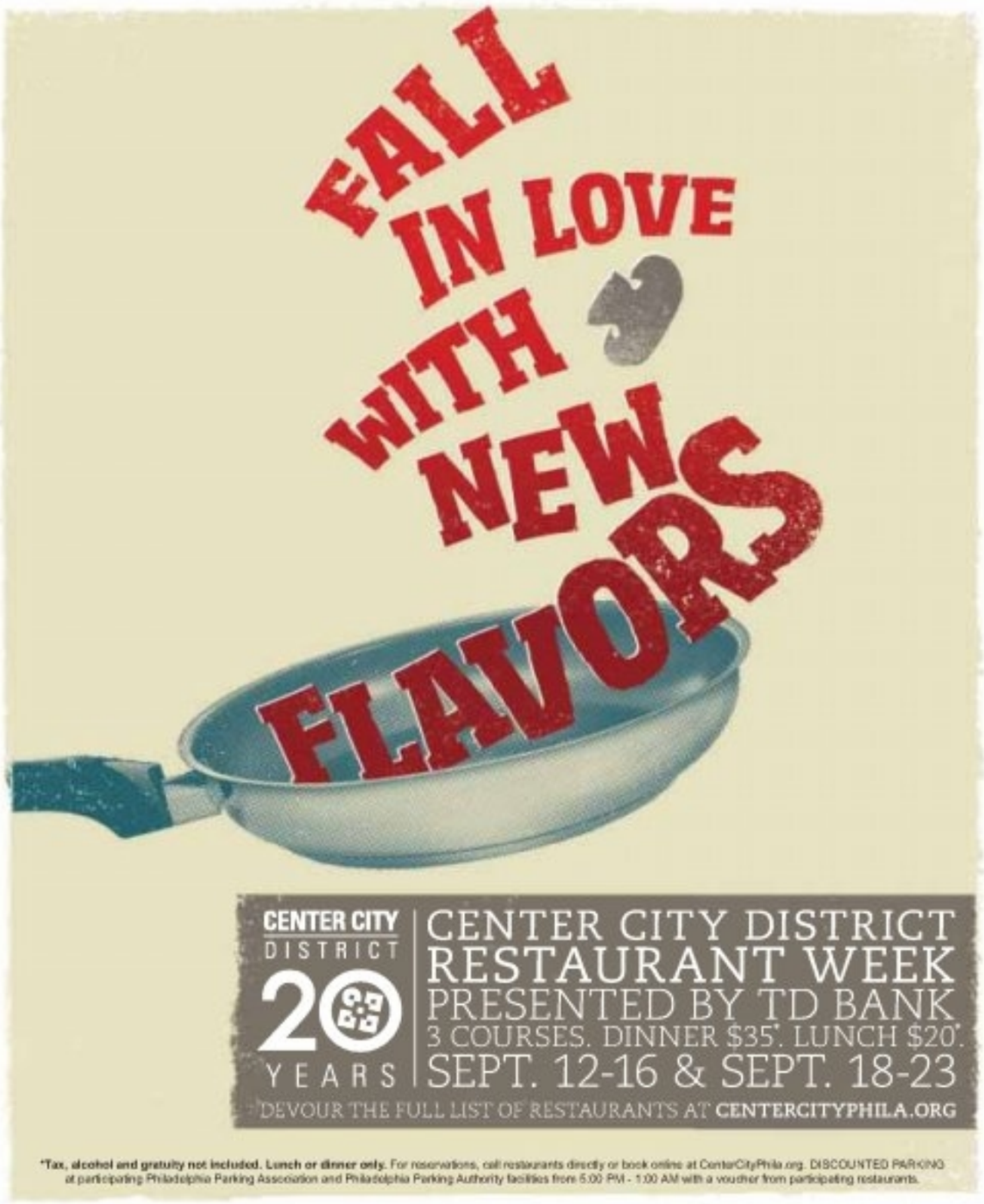
The watering hole known for its crab fries had previously been voted the best bar on the East Coast in an ESPN poll and ranked in the top five sports bars in the country. The Packer Avenue location hosts pregame shows by all four professional sports teams and is packed every Sunday during football season.

"I'm amazed. I started screaming and my wife asked me what happened," said executive chef Tom Ciarrocchi. "I didn't even vote. I don't know how to do it."

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Crabs and crab fries? Yes, waitress Julie Kershner, we'll have both please.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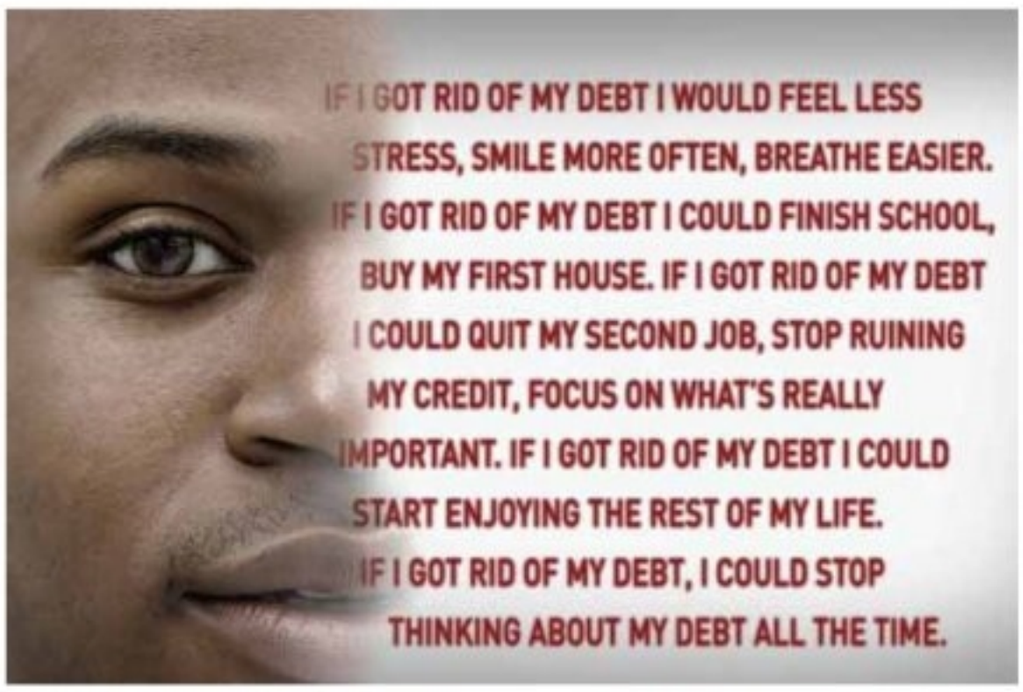
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Opinion

JOHN JOHNSON JR.
PRESIDENT OF TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 234

APPRECIATE LABOR THIS WEEKEND

"Which Side Are You On?" is a song written in 1931 by Florence Reece, the wife of an organizer for the United Mine Workers. "It seems like it's illegal to fight for the union anymore," is a lyric that feels very current. Even the right to collectively bargain is under attack by state governments. This push against unions is raising questions about basic worker rights.

Unions are a very important part of American history, yet this topic is rarely taught in schools. Labor Day is a time to reflect upon all the gains won by the labor movement for all workers and why we have the right to be proud of who we are, what we stand for and our history. When the song, "Which Side Are You On?" was written, the Congress of Industrial Organizations organized millions of skilled and unskilled workers in America's factories. During that time of the Great Depression, the Transport Workers Union was organized in New York City.

The accomplishments of the labor movement are often forgotten. The union movement was dedicated to improving working conditions and creating a better standard of living for workers. This includes the eight-hour day, which provided time for parents to be with their children, as well as child labor laws. It was our union movement that brought weekends and holidays as days off for most workers. Health care and pensions, so critical for working families, were gained by unions through struggle.

Before we blame unions for the bad economy, let us consider who isn't getting blamed: Think about the millions of dollars in executive salaries and the billions stolen by Wall Street financiers. Unlike skilled workers, these fat cats create, produce and build nothing.

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Quoted

"It is time for unions to claim their role in the new economy."
JOHNSON

It is time for unions to claim their role in the new economy. Union leaders must understand technological innovations, global economics and how management operates to serve their membership. Many unions provide training and apprenticeships to develop the skills needed to keep America's industries working and make our nation competitive in the global economy.

Unions are an important part of American history. Labor Day is not just a reason for a holiday sale. It is a time to reflect upon all the gains won by the labor movement and why we have the right to be proud of who we are and proud of what we all stand for. So if you go to the mall this Labor Day holiday, reflect for a moment on how you got this day off and who got it for all of us.

– John Johnson Jr. is president of Transport Workers Union Local 234, which represents more than 5,000 SEPTA workers.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

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Breitling	$15,000	Illinois	$1,500	Chronograph Watches	$16,500
Cartier	$12,500	Jules Jurgenson	$16,000	Ladies Watches	$11,000
Corum	$3,000	LeCourite	$6,000	Musical Watches	$37,500
Ditishiem	$14,000	Longines	$13,000	Pocket Watches	$52,500
Dudley	$11,500	Movado	$2,500	Regular Watches	$11,000
E. Howard & Co.	$12,000	Omega	$2,500	Repeating Watches	$65,000
Elgin	$750	Rolex	$16,000	Stop Watches	$11,000
Frodsham	$12,000	Seth Thomas	$1,500	World Time Watches	$37,500

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Most jewelers and dealers specialize in few items and focus on newer looking items to resell. Because they are unfamiliar with many other items including vintage jewelry, old watches, coins, flatware, etc. they tend to offer very low prices because these items are not readily saleable for them. Our company has many specialized buyers for the various classifications of items that we purchase, therefore we can usually pay more.

A Note Regarding the Up To Prices listed in this Ad

The condition and rarity of an item determines its price. If an item is in excellent condition and very rare it might be worth the up to price, or even more. However, if an item is in poor condition, the value will be lower. For example, a 1927 S Quarter could be worth $7,000 in new condition or less than $20 in poor condition. The up to price reflects items of exceptional quality and rarity. Although it is unlikely you will have these items due to their extreme rarity, feel free to bring whatever items you may have and we will evaluate them free of charge.

Customer Satisfaction

Most of our business comes from satisfied customers and referrals which includes their friends and families. Our showrooms are safe and private. Our staff is courteous and professional and we strive as a company to make your selling experience a pleasant one.

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Granite Run Mall
Media, PA
Lower Level Next to Ruby Tuesdays
Mon-Sat: 10am-9:30pm
Sunday: 11am-6pm

The Court at the King of Prussia Mall
King of Prussia, PA
Upper Level Across from The Disney Store
Mon-Sat: 10am-9pm
Sunday: 11am-6pm

The Hamilton Mall
Mays Landing, NJ
Lower Level Next to the Customer Service Information Booth
Mon-Sat 10am-9pm
Sunday 11am-6pm

Waters recede but victims still suffering

- Days after Hurricane Irene, 1.7 million without power
- Obama to tour NJ's damage
- TS Katia strengthening

Floodwaters finally started to recede from areas of the northeast devastated by Hurricane Irene but many communities were still underwater on Wednesday and relief workers battled cut-off roads and raging rivers to deliver emergency supplies.

The storm battered the East Coast with up to 15 inches of rain on Saturday and Sunday, setting river level records in 10 states, the Geological Survey said.

4K

Acres of tomato crops flattened and swamped on Virginia's Eastern Shore by Hurricane Irene. Corn, cotton and tobacco also suffered damage.

Wide swathes of New Jersey, upstate New York and Vermont experienced the worst flooding in decades, and while many disaster areas began to see waters recede other rivers had not yet crested, the USGS said.

Some 1.7 million homes and businesses were still without power after as many as 6.7 million had lost electricity.

With damage in the billions of dollars — Standard & Poor's estimated the national total at $20 billion, though others have put the number at half that — homeowners were also battling insurance companies that exclude flood damage coverage.

Adding to the anxiety, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said it had to put long-term projects on hold and focus on rushing immediate relief to battered states because it had only $800 million left in its disaster relief fund. REUTERS

MARK DYE/REUTERS

▶ Floodwaters from the Passiac River fill the streets days after Hurricane Irene in Paterson, N.J.

Pols view damage

President Barack Obama will travel to Paterson, N.J., on Sunday to view damage caused by Hurricane Irene, the White House said. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano also planned to tour Lincoln Park, one of the towns heavily damaged by Passaic River flooding.

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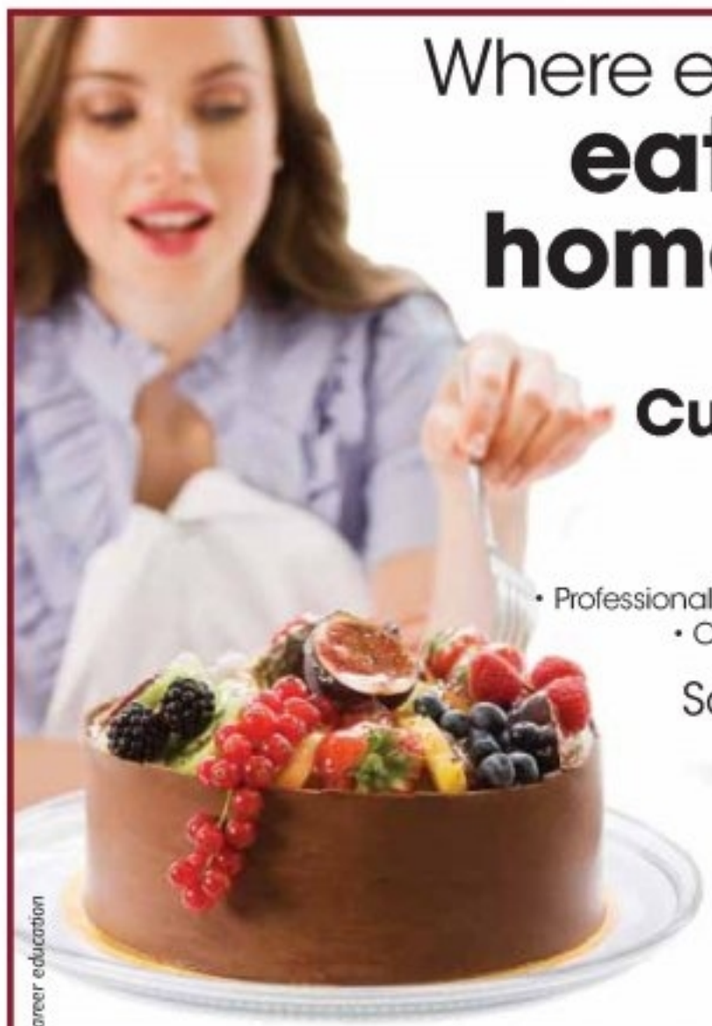
Katia likely to be hurricane

Tropical Storm Katia was expected to strengthen into a hurricane over the open Atlantic on Wednesday.

Katia had sustained winds of 65 miles per hour and would become the second hurricane this season if winds reach 74 mph.

It was forecast to become a major hurricane on Sunday but it was still too early to tell whether it would threaten land. REUTERS



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Majority of US growth: Minorities

The ethnic map of U.S. cities has drastically changed in the last decade, which could affect how major metropolitan areas provide social, educational and health services, according to a study released by the Brookings Institution.

Nonwhite people and Hispanics accounted for 98 percent of the population growth in metropolitan areas from 2000 to 2010, Brookings found in its analysis of the 2010 U.S. Census.

By 2010, minorities made up more than half the population in 22 of the 100 largest metro areas, it said. That compares with 14 areas in 2000 and five in 1990.

100

All of the 100 largest cities showed declines in the white population from 2000 to 2010.

"Overall, most of these 'majority minority' metro areas are located in California and Texas, where Hispanics dominate the minority population," Brookings said.

The research group found that "diverse Hispanic and Asian communities who speak a variety of languages and represent different origins" are growing in many cities. REUTERS

PATRICK BAZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Libya. Revolution

▶ A Libyan rebel mans a checkpoint in Tripoli as rebel forces set up a security belt around the city center.

The new lords of Tripoli

Libyan forces struck at loyalist troops dug in around Muammar Gaddafi's hometown on Wednesday, as refugees streamed out of the besieged bastion fearing a bloody showdown in the coming days. REUTERS

Gen. Petraeus on his way to the CIA

WASHINGTON. Gen. David Petraeus warned against sacrificing U.S. military capabilities to ease America's budget woes, as he retired from the Army on Wednesday ahead of becoming CIA director.

Petraeus, 58, rose through the ranks to become arguably the U.S. military's brightest star, credited for helping to turn around the Iraq war and for helping to halt the momentum of Taliban militants in Afghanistan. He led U.S. troops in both conflicts and briefly oversaw the entire region as head of the U.S. military's Central Command.

At the CIA, Petraeus will replace Leon Panetta, who became U.S. defense secretary. He will be sworn in on Sept. 6. Petraeus acknowledged he was leaving the U.S. military at a delicate moment. REUTERS

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

When skeletons attack!

Once upon a time, there were two living skeletons. One was an entertainment journalist named **Giuliana Rancic** and the other was called **LeAnn Rimes**, and she was once famous for being a singer but is now known to us because of cheating and weddings and showing off her bones in bathing suits or whatever. Now, these two skeletons have both became much more skeletal recently (which is hard to do when you're already a skeleton but somehow these two pulled it off). Then, the reporter skeleton had the nerve to tell the Huffington Post that the singing/homewrecking skeleton seemed "a little thin right now" and went as far as saying, "I think she looks great when she's a bit curvier."

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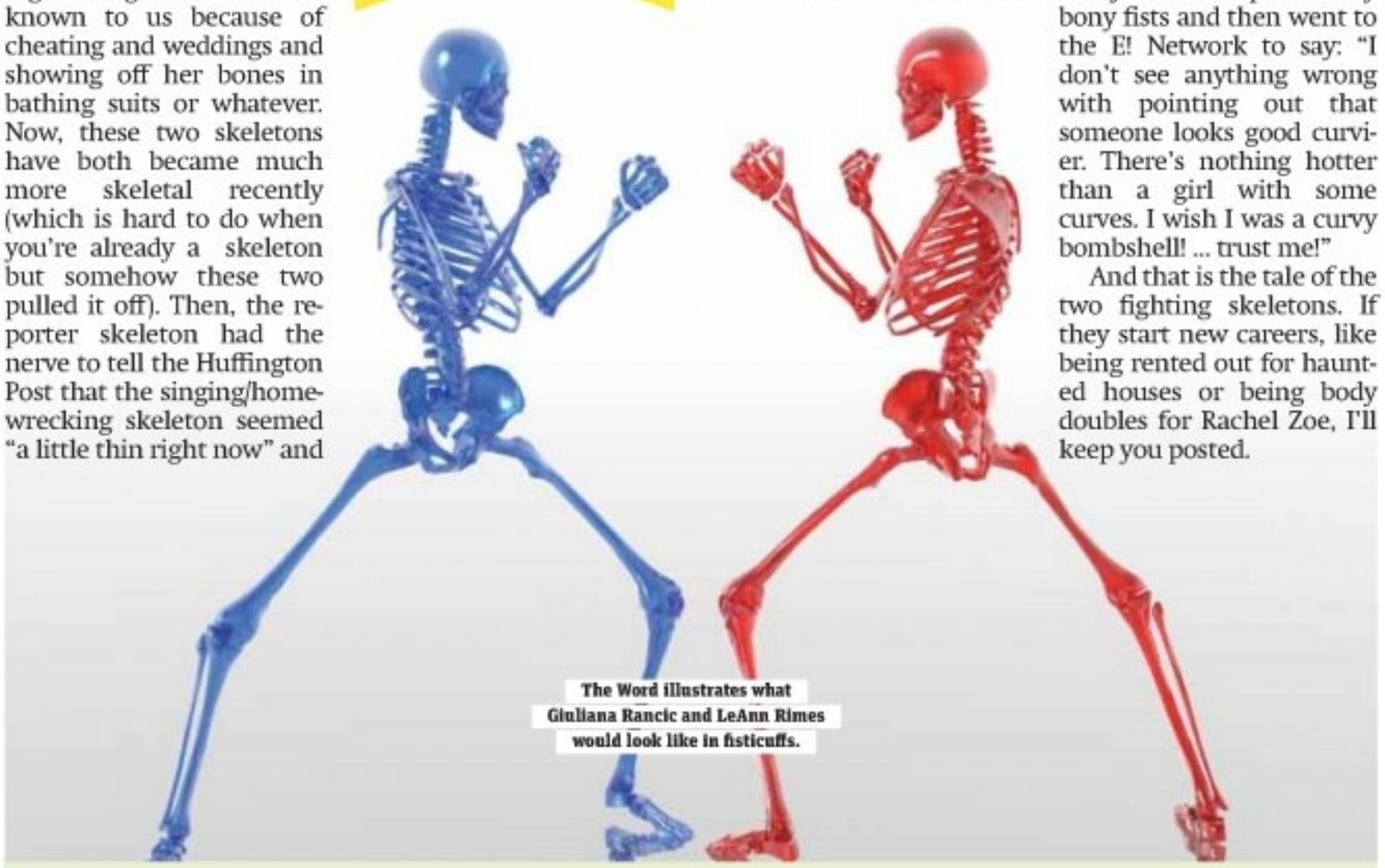
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Well, the singing/homewrecking skeleton didn't like this too much and tweeted to her: "@GiulianaRancic hey, we should go to dinner sometime. You get criticized all the time for how small you are. You can see just HOW much I eat and maybe put a stop to this crazy 'shrinking' once and for all."

But the Rancic skeleton wouldn't back down! No, she just held up her tiny bony fists and then went to the E! Network to say: "I don't see anything wrong with pointing out that someone looks good curvier. There's nothing hotter than a girl with some curves. I wish I was a curvy bombshell! ... trust me!"

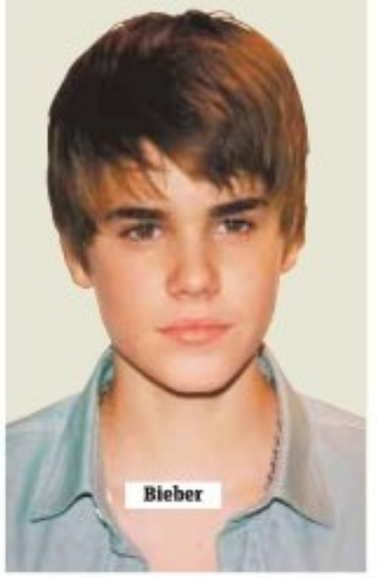
And that is the tale of the two fighting skeletons. If they start new careers, like being rented out for haunted houses or being body doubles for Rachel Zoe, I'll keep you posted.



The Word illustrates what Giuliana Rancic and LeAnn Rimes would look like in fisticuffs.

His first car accident

Justin Bieber reached another milestone — his first fender bender. The 17-year-old singer's black Ferrari reportedly collided with a Honda Civic in an underground parking structure, according to the L.A. Times. Bieber was behind the wheel at the time. "No one was injured and there was no damage to either vehicle," the LAPD said in a statement. Glad we could all share in this life step with him.



Bieber

Talking points

Their Canadian getaway

Jessica Biel and **Justin Timberlake** put an end to their relationship back in March, but now there's speculation that their breakup might not stick, according to Hollyscoop. Biel and Timberlake were spotted recently sharing brunch and a leisurely bike ride in Toronto, where Biel is currently filming. "They were in good spirits," an eyewitness says. "They seemed happy. They had brunch together. They were talking. They enjoyed their food. They had a nice time." But even if the pair are rekindling their flame, don't expect Timberlake to get too talkative about it. "In my 30 years, she is the most special person," he told Vanity Fair in June. "I don't want to say much more, because I have to protect things that are dear to me — for instance, her."

Baby time for Weisz?

Newlyweds **Rachel Weisz** and **Daniel Craig** haven't ruled out adding a baby to their household, but the motivation has to be right, Weisz tells Lucky magazine. "Oh, I wouldn't make [a baby] just for the sake of giving my son a sibling," she says. "But you never know." Weisz has a 5-year-old son, Henry, from her relationship with Darren Aronofsky, while Craig has a 19-year-old daughter, Ella, from a previous marriage.

Lively treks it to Australia

Blake Lively made quite the trek for a belated birthday dinner with rumored boyfriend **Leonardo DiCaprio**, reportedly flying to Australia, where he's filming "The Great Gatsby," according to Us Weeky. Sources say the pair shared a romantic dinner in Sydney to toast Lively's 24th birthday. It was something of a whirlwind trip, though, as the "Gossip Girl" star was back at work in New York by Tuesday, sources confirm.

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Joel McHale can't argue with the numbers, will.i.am is worried about the future, Samantha Ronson is ready for action and Jimmy Fallon is thinking about the practical stuff.

▶ @joelmchale
Fact: 90% of all men in the U.S. driving convertibles are real estate agents.

▶ @iamwill
How do we get america back up to speed again???

▶ @samantharonson
If writing on rocks and throwing them at people counts.... I'm totally down with fighing with words.

▶ @jimmyfallon
Beyonce & Jay-Z are expecting a baby. Man, that kid is gonna have everything! Except a last name.

Jimmy Fallon

myentertainment

In honor of Labor Day, here are a few 'working' stars

▶ **1:** Taylor Hicks was a helping hand at Habitat for Humanity on March 18 of last year in Birmingham, Ala.

▶ **2:** Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, shoveled earth during a tree planting ceremony as her husband, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, looked on at Rideau Hall on July 2 in Ottawa, Canada.

▶ **3:** Bette Midler and her trusty shovel attended the 2011 MillionTreesNYC Arbor Day Planting and Celebration at the NYCHA Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center on April 28 in the Bronx.

▶ **4:** Rosario Dawson worked for Hollywood Habitat for Humanity on June 18 in Burbank, Calif.

▶ **5:** P. Diddy actually got his hands dirty at the Toffee Park Adventure Playground and Youth Centre while helping volunteers for Orange Rock Corps on July 11 in London.

▶ **6:** Brad Pitt volunteered at the Global Green USA's first house project at the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association project in the Ninth Ward district of New Orleans on Aug. 21, 2007.

▶ **7:** Jill Zarin posed for a photo during NBCUniversal's Central Park Beautification project on April 20 in New York City.

1: TAYLOR HILL/GETTY IMAGES
2: LIONEL HAHN - POOL/GETTY IMAGES
3: JOHN LAMPARSKI/WIREIMAGE
4: VIVIEN KILLILEA/WIREIMAGE
5: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES
6: MARSAILE MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES
7: ISMAIL COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES

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David Ellis: From snakes on planes to sharks in 3-D

With summer coming to an end, it's the perfect time for a movie to scare you off the beach. Here to do it is "Shark Night 3D," from "Snakes on a Plane" director David Ellis.

Metro caught up with Ellis and one of the flick's stars, "American Idol" runner-up Katharine McPhee, to see what secrets about the film they're willing to spill. As it turns out, not many.

STEVE DIETL © 2011 INCENTIVE FILM PRODUCTIONS, LLC

▶ From left: Chris Carmack, Katharine McPhee and Joshua Leonard star in "Shark Night 3D," which hits theaters tomorrow.

What can you tell us, without giving too much away, about "Shark Night 3D"?

David Ellis: There's sharks in it. (Laughs) It's really weird. And a lot of the movie takes place at night.

Katharine McPhee: I'm in it.

DE: Kat's in it.

David, you're no stranger to genre movies. What's the appeal of them as a filmmaker?

DE: For me, I think it's just fun to be able to entertain people — for them to be able to go and escape from everything crazy that's going on in the world for an hour and a half and go have fun. To kind of scare them and make them laugh and make them cry, and just kind of play with their emotions.

KM: You like making people cry.

Were you afraid of sharks before you made the movie?

KM: I'm one of those people who, especially as a kid, would spend hours in the ocean swimming. I love swimming. But always in the back of my head there was that fear of a shark coming and getting you.

DE: For me, I grew up in the ocean as well — my whole life in Malibu — and I'm aware of them, you respect them. But you have a better chance of getting hit by a coconut than getting killed by a shark. But it's a primal fear for people.

How creative do you get with the deaths in the movie?

DE: Pretty creative. Each one is different and unique. And what's cool about it is we had so many different types of sharks.

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-Jonett Wasselman, NEWYORKPOST.COM

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going out

Mix up a gem of a cocktail

COURTESY OF ART IN THE AGE

▶ RHUBY joins ROOT and SNAP in Art in the Age's liquor cabinet.

Shelf life

What we're drinking this week: RHUBY

What it is: Art in the Age's latest bottle is a certified organic 80-proof spirit distilled from rhubarb (hence the name), beets and carrots — among other ingredients found in fancier spice cabinets.

Plays nice with: Whiskey, gin, Campari, vodka and, in a pinch, rum. Don't be fooled by the classy bottle — RHUBY can get down with just about whatever's on your shelf.

What it tastes like: Bright, snappy and just sweet enough — thanks to pink peppercorns, coriander and vanilla. It's right at home in something fresh and fruity for the final days of summer, but we bet RHUBY could really heat up a toddy, too.

Notable facts: Ben Franklin brought the first rhubarb seeds to America in 1771, and promptly brewed up some special "tea" with his "botanist" pal John Bartram. Clearly, we missed the cool Philly tea parties.

Cocktail of the week

Cucumber RHUBY gimlet

What's in it

- **1.5 oz.** gin
- **1 oz.** RHUBY
- **.5 oz.** simple syrup
- **2** fresh mint leaves
- Local cucumbers
- Fresh lime wedges

How to make it

Muddle mint and cucumber. Squeeze in lime. Add all ingredients into mixing glass. Shake and pour into a rocks glass.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

FX

TV watch list

▶ Wilfred isn't good for picking up the ladies.

'Wilfred'

COMEDY. Ryan wants to take a hot Italian woman up on her advances, but he has drains to unclog and cable guys to wait for. Oh, yeah — and a foul-mouthed, chain-smoking chubby man in a dog costume needs attention. **10 p.m., FX**

'Louie'

COMEDY. Louie's niece makes an unexpected visit when his sister drops her off in New York. Comedians Todd Barry, Nick DiPaolo and Godfrey guest star. **10:31 p.m., FX**

MONICA WEYMOUTH

MTV2 Must-see

This Sunday on "Sucker Free Countdown," DJ Envy hosts a Sucker Free Labor Day BBQ and highlights the best moments of this past summer, including Rick Ross, Tech N9ne and Swizz Beats. Also, catch the 15 hottest hip-hop and R&B videos of the week on "Sucker Free Countdown," this and every Sunday at 11 a.m., only on MTV2.

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myentertainment

Shaking up Shakespeare

The Barrymore-winning 'Bomb-itty of Errors' is back on stage Director Megan Nicole O'Brien on why the 'ad-rap-tation' of the Bard's comedy actually fits right in with 11th Hour Theatre Company's mission

MARK VALENZUELA

From left: Steve Pacek, Davy Raphaely, Michael Phillip O'Brien and Thomas DelPizzo star in "The Bomb-itty of Errors."

Megan Nicole O'Brien is the first to admit that she doesn't exactly exude street cred when it comes to hip-hop. "Who ever thought that I, a white girl from the suburbs, would be directing a four-man rap version of 'The Comedy of Errors'?"

No matter how unlikely, O'Brien is once again directing "The Bomb-itty of Errors," the so-called "ad-rap-tation" of the Bard's comedy penned by Jordan Allen-Dutton, Jason Catalano, GQ and Erik Weiner. 11th Hour Theatre Company is remounting the production for the first time since it earned seven Barrymore nominations and two wins with its initial staging five years ago.

Quoted

"It's something that we've been really passionate about, and [it] ties in very much with our mission, which is about expanding the boundaries of musical theater."

DIRECTOR MEGAN NICOLE O'BRIEN, ON 'BOMB-ITTY OF ERRORS'

"It was the first show that put 11th Hour on the map artistically in Philadelphia," O'Brien says. "It's something that we've been really passionate about, and [it] ties in very much with our mission, which is about expanding the boundaries of musical theater."

O'Brien describes the play, which is performed with a live DJ and four actors each playing multiple characters, as possessing a vibe reminiscent of '80s/'90s acts like the Fresh Prince and Kris Kross. And for those who, like the director, don't listen to much rap, she sees herself as the perfect guide.

"The writers have stayed true to that culture, so I've been immersed in it," she says. "I think I've been able to communicate that to an audience who might not know a lot about the hip-hop genre either."

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'The Bomb-itty of Errors'
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Letters

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Fact or fiction? Fed as savior

RE: "BLAME GAME OR JUST THE FACTS?": It is not economic fact that it takes "8 to 10 years" to recover from the completely subjective "big enough crash." In U.S. history, economic downturns lasted an average of one and a half years prior to the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 and the Great Depression. The first time the government and the Federal Reserve aggressively intervened to "save" the economy resulted in the longest and deepest depression in our history. The New Deal, WWII and the Federal Reserve made the depression worse. Your Keynesian theories on government stimulus and Federal Reserve safety nets are fallacious and outdated.

KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL

Hold police to high standards

News of the hit-and-run of Vance Banks by a Washington Township police officer in Gloucester County is truly a disservice to all police officers. We don't know if the driver was alone, drunk or high on drugs. We do know that typically there are real issues when someone decides to leave a victim on the side of the road without seeking aid. When a judge, lawyer or police officer breaks the law, their penalty should be double of John Q. Citizen. They know the laws and we are assumed to know them. Remember what they tell us? Ignorance of the law is no excuse? Well this lady officer knew the law: "Book 'em, Danno."

JOSEPH DUPONT, PHILADELPHIA

Well, are you a socialist?

RE: "CAPITAL CRIME: TAX DISHONESTY": Letter-writer Jean Kazadi wonders why lefties like her are so often called socialist by us right-wingers. It has been my experience that whenever I encounter someone like Kazadi, all I have to do to expose their true agenda is to ask them to agree with me that socialism is a rotten, un-American, anti-American system. They won't. Will Kazadi?

RITCHIE TIEMANN, VIA E-MAIL

Don't forget the Bush mess

It amazes that Americans' memories are so short. Alzheimer's must have been contagious along with the financial collapse of 2008. No one said anything about the bailouts and the loss of jobs and corporations before the last president left office.

WANDA O. DEVORE, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** The funds that will enable you to get something that you've wanted for a long time but always felt was too expensive are apt to finally become available. With the extra cash in your pocket, you can go for it.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Whether or not you realize it, your influence over your peer group is stronger than you think. Others will be easily swayed by the example you set.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Keep a matter that is of a sensitive, secretive nature between yourself and closely involved parties. For best results in resolving the matter, you need to maintain its exclusivity.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** When a close friend tells you something in confidence, he or she might leave it to your discretion as to whether or not another pal should be let in on the secret. Choose wisely.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** A material desire could end up functioning as a powerful motivator for you. If you really want something badly enough, you will be capable of figuring out how to acquire it.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It's more important for you to take a long-range view of things where your self-interests are concerned, instead of worrying about how to get what you want right now.

♓ Pisces Feb. **20-March 20.** You're very blessed, because someone who loves you is aware of your present wants, and will knock themselves out trying to figure out ways to acquire them for you.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Help with a critical yet perplexing decision is on its way. Listen carefully to the new alternatives being presented.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Perform to the very best of your abilities without thinking about what's in it for you. If you do a good job, the accolades will manifest.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You've heard it a thousand times: Relax and just be yourself when dealing with others, be they bigwigs or small fries. Whatever charisma you possess cannot be forced, so play it cool.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** As soon as you get everyone in accord regarding a family matter, put the wheels in motion and you'll get good results. Sit on things and you'll waste another toothsome opportunity.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't base an important decision solely on its material aspects. It'll be important to put credence in other factors, such as ethics. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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Across
1 Explosive star
5 Stall the engine
10 Calligraphy supplies
14 Dark, poetically
15 Like an old mattress
16 Trench
17 Chase away
18 "Hedda Gabler" author
19 Nuclear reactor
20 Earn
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25 Dad, to Grandpa
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30 Said
34 Soprano Gluck
35 Card game
37 Feast with poi
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39 Air-pump meas.
40 Qt. parts
41 Anon's companion
43 Painter of ballerinas
45 Try to find
46 Made fun of
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50 Actor Kilmer
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56 Dizzy feeling
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61 Snake venom
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Down
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5 Jalopy, in the roaring '20s
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10 Form a jury
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49 Golfing standard
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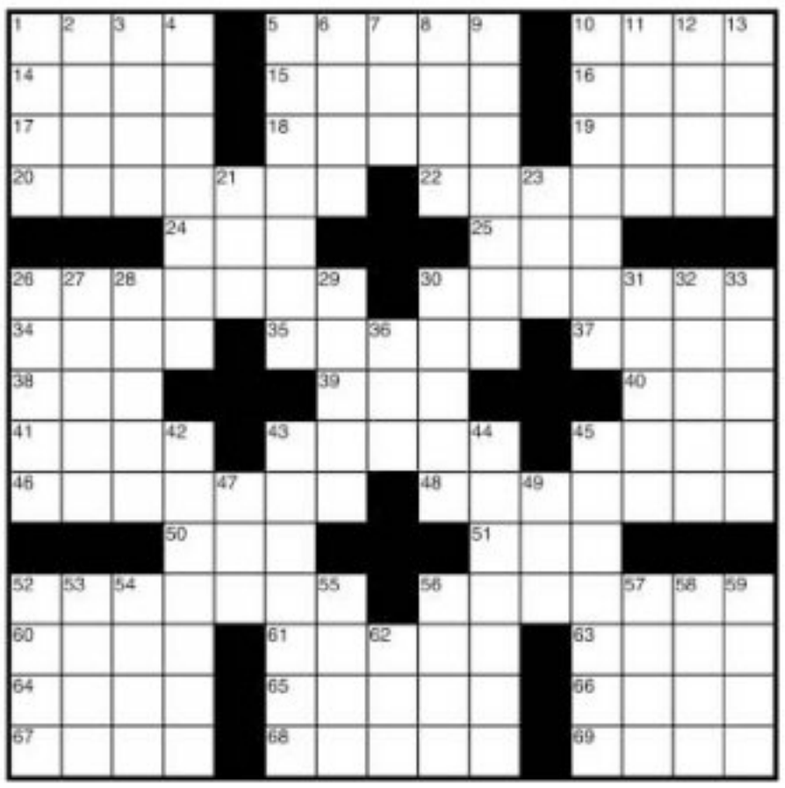
54 Actor Cronyn
55 Non-flying bird
56 Police squad
57 "La __ Bonita" (Madonna tune)
58 Nasty cut
59 By mouth
62 Ovid's 14



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

C	O	O	L	■	N	E	I	L	S	■	H	Y	P	O
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T	O	A	D	■	B	A	S	S	O	■	E	S	P	N

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Owls, Wildcats set to take center stage

Temple's rookie coach looking forward to challenge of city rivalry ◗ Previous two years came down to closing seconds ◗ Schools set to kick off in third annual Mayor's Cup game

For those who believe Temple has little or nothing to gain by playing neighborhood rival Villanova in the third annual Mayor's Cup, Owls rookie coach Steve Addazio begs to differ.

In fact, he believes a prolonged extension of a series where both games came down to last-second field goals would be best for all concerned.

"We're opening up with a crosstown rivalry," said Addazio. "A game that traditionally has gone down to the wire against a team that's traditionally been well-coached. There are some places opening up with where, let's face it, they're playing teams they feel they're gonna run through. But our guys' mindset is we're gonna be in a complete street fight. Four quarters where the last team standing wins."

Calling this game a duel has certainly been the case in recent years. Last year, Temple edged 'Nova, 31-24, after scoring nine points in the last three seconds. The two schools hope tonight's edition will only intensify a budding rivalry.

"We want to keep playing this game," said Addazio. "It's great for Philadelphia and great for college football. Let's keep this thing going."

His nemesis on the opposing sideline agreed.

"This is one of the best rivalries out there," said Villanova coach Andy Talley. "We're excited to be part of it."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Temple beat Villanova, 31-24, in last year's Mayor's Cup game at Lincoln Financial Field. The Wildcats won the inaugural contest, 27-24.

On TV today

Temple vs. Villanova at the Linc, 7 p.m. (ESPN3)

Extra points

Starter problem?
Temple's starting QB will be a game-time decision. **Mike Gerardi** and **Chris Coyer** are the leading candidates, according to head coach **Steve Addazio**. Villanova goes with redshirt freshman **Dustin Thomas**.

Happy returns
The Owls return 13 starters from last year, including star **RB Bernard Pierce**. 'Nova, meanwhile, must replace 13 starters.

Holy cow

St. Joe's set to host Villanova
For the first time since the Big 5 was created, St. Joseph's will host 'Nova at Hagan Arena in their annual Holy War hoops game.

The game is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 17.

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5:0

Matthew Stafford's TD-to-INT ratio in the preseason. He also completed 24-of-31 passes for 356 yards. It's not a fluke — Stafford is set up for an epic season.

Preseason studs: Players to watch

These unknowns earned roles with big preseasons:

1 Antonio Brown, WR, PIT — Set to open the season as the No. 3 wideout thanks to Emmanuel Sanders' foot injury. Extreme deep leaguers should take notice.

2 Lance Kendricks, TE, STL — The rookie has been the talk of Rams camp thanks to his athleticism as a pass-catcher. There's more upside with Kendricks than there is with a declining veteran like Chris Cooley or Tony Gonzalez.

3 Denarius Moore, WR, OAK — Once the Raiders give up on the Darrius Heyward-Bey disaster, Moore is ready to step forward. The underrated rookie is a real player.

Injury pickups

Ben Tate

RB, Texans
With Arian Foster's hamstring tweaked, the talented Tate is in for a role behind an elite o-line.

Michael Crabtree

WR, 49ers
He's finally nearing a return after missing the entire month with a foot injury. Will instantly start.

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Fantasy sports

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Remember that fantasy magazine you bought at the grocery store last month? Burn it.

A lot has changed during this unique training camp. The Falcons have turned into a free-form, passing offense, **Ryan Williams** tore up his knee and the Bengals ... well, the Bengals are still a joke. As you prepare to draft this weekend, make sure you're aware of these changes:

Ocho is a no-go

Among preseason flops, **Chad Ochocinco** is the biggest name. Expected to revive his career as the Patriots' No. 2 receiver, Ocho has been slow to pick up the offense and has looked far from elite at age 33. Don't get lured into a trap here.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chad Ochocinco is a big name that is off to a rough start in his new home.

Bush's break

Saints coach Sean Payton never saw **Reggie Bush** as a feature back. The Dolphins do. Bush has been named the starter ahead of **Daniel Thomas** and is expected to lead the team in both carries and touches. He's a good bet to wear down as the season goes on, but he'll start the season as a three-down back. Owners in point-per-reception leagues must adjust.

Tower of touch

A month ago, **Ryan Torain** was the Redskins starter and **Roy Helu** was his backup. Today, **Tim Hightower** stands alone as the unquestioned workhorse. The Redskins' offensive line is improving and Hightower fits nicely in Mike Shanahan's zone-blocking scheme. The ex-Cardinal is on the rise.

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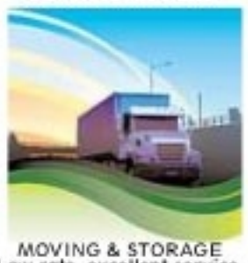

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▶ Bowker

Phillies nab Bowker as left-handed bench bat

The Phillies ended their search for a left-handed pinch-hitter yesterday by trading for John Bowker.

The 28-year-old was acquired from the Pittsburgh Pirates in exchange for cash and a player to be named later. He was in uniform — wearing No. 16 — for last night's game against the Cincinnati Reds (that game ended too late for this edition).

On TV today

Phillies at Reds, 12:35 p.m. (CSN)

Bowker has spent most of this season in the minor leagues, batting .306 with 27 doubles and 15 home runs. He hit .336 against right-handed pitching with 12 homers. He has played first base, left field and right field in parts of four big league seasons with San Francisco and Pittsburgh. He holds a .301 career average (22-for-73) as a pinch-hitter, along with four doubles, two triples, one homer and 12 RBIs.

To make room on the 25-man roster, the Phils optioned reliever Michael Schwimer to Triple-A Lehigh Valley. They also placed Jose Contreras on the 60-day disabled list to make room for Bowker on the 40-man roster. METRO

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style

Go ahead, pile it on!

- Suddenly, it's cool to wear every single print and color in your wardrobe – all at once
- We take a look at the maximal trend, the latest nonsense to make perfectly good sense in fashion

The style icons

1 A floral print dress + floral print tights + socks + a military coat = one mean New York look. Well played, **Julia Frakes**.

2 British editor and international blog star **Marian Kihogo** deftly mixes stripes, animal prints and saturated color to sum up the season's "anything goes" mood.

3 **Susie Bubble**'s outfit has no less than four patterns, but all in the same family of neon colors, which makes this look work.

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Fall's trendiest prints to mix

1 **Python: Michael Michael Kors clutch, $270,** www.netaporter.com

2 **Florals: Mango skirt, $60,** www.mango.com

3 **Stars: ASOS petite belted dress, $82,** www.asos.com

4 **Polka dots: Zara blouse, $60,** www.zara.com

KENYA HUNT
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technology

Welcome to the third dimension

Experts believe that 3-D televisions are about to become big business Take a look at these top models

Sidescroller

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We all know analysts are never wrong. Recently, they've been using their razor-sharp noggins to suggest that 3-D televisions are about to ascend geekdom and become, well, popular. Maybe it's time to finally get one. Here are reviews of a few recently released models that are optimized for video games. Prices vary by size.

Sharp 70-inch class
Grade: ●●●●○
These are great sets that offer smooth and reliable 3-D that's gaming optimized. They are also really, really huge. Like, Godzilla huge. The largest model maxes out at 70 inches, which is enough to impress any neighbor that comes within blocks of your apartment. The only downside? With great power comes great fiscal responsibility. They cost $5,000.

Samsung: 750 and 950 series
Grade: ●●●●●
Holy crikey. Some people tend to think 3-D is overrated shtick, but this is by far the best overrated shtick you are likely to set glasses on. The colors and layers really pop. There are no latency problems when 3-D gaming, and the 950 even adds the effect to 2-D games.

LG: Infinia LX Series
Grade: ●●●○○
This would be a fantastic television if it didn't bother with that whole 3-D thing. The regular modes are stunning. Unfortunately, just like "The Clash of the Titans," not all things were meant to transcend the second dimension. The 3-D here is kind of washed out and doesn't allow for any picture adjustment. You know, just like real life.

In the news

New offline versions of Gmail, Docs and Calendar

Google is launching a new Gmail Web app and updating Calendar and Docs in an effort to increase its products' offline utility. Google users have called bringing these services offline an essential step for improving productivity, Group Product Manager Rajen Sheth told Mashable. Google is launching a new Chrome app called Gmail Offline. Separate from Gmail itself, the new app is designed for accessing, managing and sending e-mail while you're disconnected from the Web. It looks a lot like the Gmail app for tablets. That's because it's based off the tablet version, which was designed to function with or without Internet access.

BEN PARR FOR Mashable
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